

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
January 26, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:25 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Mark Herr, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Colton Kelly (advisor), Anne Korman (advisor).

**Next meetings:** February 9, March 9 & 23 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of January 12 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**DNR Natural Resources Board:** Anne Korman noted that we are on the agenda for the January 27 meeting to donate the WRSB to DNR. John M. will speak via Zoom on behalf of the Friends and snow making. Anne will send the Zoom Webinar link to the committee for anyone who wishes to watch starting at 8:30 AM.

**New Trail Signage & Maps:** Mark H. & Charlie R. posted snowflake signs to indicate the man-made snow trails. These will help for the remainder of this ski season and the DNR will provide permanent aluminum signs for next season. They will also use the snowflake logo on the trail map to indicate the man-made snow loops. There was some discussion about the possibility of having separate summer & winter maps to distribute in the future.

**Virtual Birkie, Kortelopet, & Prince Haakon events:** Anne K. reported that they have had information from Ben Popp of the ABSF noting that the dates for completion of a virtual event have been extended to February 20-28 and Lapham Peak is one of the partner sites. The ABSF will provide special maps and signage for the virtual events as well as banners. The DNR will work to assure a safe race event. As there are 9 state DNR properties included as virtual sites Missy VanLanduyt from the Madison office will coordinate the arrangements. If there is enough natural snow, skiers may also complete the events at the Nordic and McMiller trails in the South Kettle region. Colton & Anne K. will be working on routes to match abilities and John M. volunteered to provide simple loop maps of the various options on the man-made snow. He & Colton will also provide information for distances & ratings for the other trails at Lapham. Colton will send this information to the ABSF for distribution on their website. An enlarged version of these loops & the distances required to complete the various events will be posted on the main bulletin board at the trail entrance.

**Fundraising via Birkie Volunteer Hours:** Julie Hacker has encouraged all with last names between A-J to sign up as Peak Nordic Ski Club volunteers and those with last names starting with K-Z to sign up as working for Friends of Lapham Peak.

**Snow Cat:** Thanks were expressed to the groomers who were able to leave the Pisten Bully out on display next to the trail beside the WRSB last Saturday. There were many admirers and some were even observed to bow to the great machine.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update:** Rich M. reported that the wall insulation has been finished and the wall board will be installed next week. He will meet with Colton to decide on interior paint colors. The electrical wiring is finished and all parts of the ventilation system have been tested. Anne K. will notify Mark H. when Madison DNR has given approval to place a security camera on the building so that he can order the camera. John M. will complete and submit the paper work needed in order to receive the second \$10,000 from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant #FR3-20-14.

**Fundraising:** Donations continue to come in, many in the envelopes that were enclosed with the holiday card. Anne R. noted that she recently retrieved the largest ever amount of donations from the red donation tube.

**Virtual Lapham Loppet 2021:** Kris Maki has created the loppet as a virtual fun event for this year. She expressed her thanks for the continued interest in this fund-raising event and the committee expressed thanks to Kris for keeping this event going during COVID challenges.

**Snowmaking:** Rich M. noted that snowmaking has gone very well. They plan to make snow on the playground area this Thursday. The recent fresh snow has helped to even out some of the areas. John M. and Anne R. pointed out 2 areas of potential need for touch-up snow before the next warm spell.

**Tuesday Time Trial Race:** Jim Marschalek still has some openings for this event with a rolling start between 2PM and a finish by 6:30PM. The chip method has been working to time skiers who receive the week's route via e-mail the day before.

**WE Energies Bill:** Colton will coordinate with Karl Timm to get the original bill and envelope to him and will scan a copy for the charges for the remaining snow making season. Rich M. will analyze the season's bills and present a summary at a later meeting.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Rich M. suggested the need for an end of season newsletter and solicited ideas for topics to include with the season summary.
- A phone call was received by Louise Borzynski, FLP President, from Jim Koschmann requesting that someone contact him at 217-502-0430. He is a representative of the Muskegon, MI, Winter Sports Complex that is a concessionaire with one of the Michigan state parks and would like information about our snowmaking operation. Anne R. has initiated phone contact.
- John M. noted that he sent a summary of snow making history to Dan LaBlanc, ski instruction at Lapham Peak, to help him answer questions and promote snowmaking during his lessons.
- Reminder that the FLP is required to turn in to the WI DNR the number of hours put in by all volunteers each calendar year. Thanks to those who have reported hours to both Anne R. and Louise B.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**